

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF FLORIDA,

*On the subject of slavery.*

FEBRUARY 19, 1849.

Ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS relative to the question of controversy between the North and South.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened,* That, as friends of the Union, we view with most serious alarm the course of our northern brethern in relation to the question of slavery—a course which, marked by unkindness, wrong, insult and injury, has already, to a most unfortunate extent, weakened the bonds which unite them and us; which, if persisted in in the same spirit, can only terminate in further alienation, and in the inevitable dissolution of the confederacy.

*Resolved,* That the recently acquired territory having been purchased by blood and treasure, of which her full proportion was contributed by the South, she and her sons are entitled equally with any other portion of the Union, to the enjoyment of the same; this General Assembly, therefore, believing that Congress possesses under the constitution no power to pass such a measure, adopting similar language to that of the legislature of Virginia, hereby declare it as their opinion, "that under no circumstances will the people of this State be willing to recognize as binding any enactment of the federal government which has for its object the prohibition of slavery in any territory south of the line of the Missouri Compromise, holding it to be the natural and independent right of each citizen of each and every State of the confederacy, to reside with his property, of whatever description, in any territory acquired by the arms of the United States, or yielded by treaty with any foreign power."

*Resolved,* That the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, involving as it does an exercise of power not granted by the constitution, and designed as it is, as a means of affecting the institution of slavery in the States, against which it is aimed as a blow, should be resisted on the part of the South by whatever means are best adapted to the protection of the constitution, the defence of herself, and the preservation of the Union.

*Resolved,* That knowing no *party* names or political divisions on questions involving in their settlement and consequences the character, property and lives of those whom we represent, we are ready heart and soul, with a united front, to join Virginia, the Carolinas, and the other

southern States, in taking such measures for the defence of our rights, and the preservation of ourselves, and those whom we hold dear, as the highest wisdom of all, may, whether through a southern convention or otherwise, suggest and devise.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the governor of each of the slave States, with a request that they be laid before the legislatures of such as are now in session.

Passed House of Representatives January 4, 1849.

WM. B. LANCASTER,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*  
B. A. PUTNAM,  
*Speaker of House of Representatives.*

Passed the Senate.

C. W. DOWNING,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*  
E. D. TRACY,  
*President of the Senate.*

Approved January 13, 1849.

W. D. MOSELEY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Tallahassee, Florida, January 16, 1849.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit to you a copy of resolutions adopted at the late session of the General Assembly of the State of Florida, relative to the question of controversy between the North and South, to which your attention is respectfully invited.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

W. D. MOSELEY.

*Governor of Florida.*

Hon. D. L. YULEE,

*United States senator, Washington, D. C.*